



Engraved by P. Reason,
A Colored Young Man of the City of New York. 1835.

14

Auburn Aug. 11. 1835.

Dear Wife

Yours of the 6th came to hand yesterday, & I
reply by return of mail, although I cannot reply definitely
to all the points of inquiry. I will say then that I arrived
here safely, but found the journey rather a fatiguing one. From
Albany to Schenectady railroad; from that to Utica Canal
boat, journeying all night, & though the boat moves along very
silently, still the berths are so small & the cabin so close that
it is very warm, & going on the water also makes it very
damp withal. From Utica to this place, some 75 miles, I
came by stage, though I might have come half the way by the
boat & the other by stage. I shall remain here a part of
this & the next week. To-morrow I shall go to Utica to
spend the Sabbath, & shall of course go to Whitesboro, 4 miles
out from Utica to see brother Green, & shall return here the
first of the week, to attend the anniversary, & then shall
probably go west to Rochester & Buffalo, & beginning there
work my way homeward as fast as I can. We shall

issue a call for a State convention to be held some time in Sept or October, after which I shall hasten home as soon as I can. And now as to the question of your coming here, I can hardly determine it to my own satisfaction. I am however on the whole of the opinion that if you can be made comfortable there you had better not. If you stay there you will see things done as they should be. You had better have a top put on the waggon at all events so that you can ride. See if the man (Mr Nevins) who does it will not take my gig in exchange. If he will let him have it at what price he pleases. I gave twenty five dollars & the old iron about ~~is worth~~ it (particularly the Springs) is worth I suppose ten or twelve dollars. As to the horse, sell him for what he will bring, be it more or less, unless mother thinks he can be used to advantage this winter in drawing wood &c, so as to pay for his keeping. I may as well sink \$30 or even \$50 on him at once, as to pay that for his keeping through the winter. If he can be used so as to pay the expense of keeping, & save purchasing a yoke of cattle, then she had better not sell him at all. She must decide.

I think the floor should be painted as you suggest. Mother had better keep the buffalo. She will want it in the winter. The old one is worn out. You should send your letter to Frederick by mail, but I fear you will be too late for this term. The vacation is nearly or quite begun. You are right in not having a door from your bedroom out to the back door. The chamber floors should be planed down.

I have thus noticed most of the topics suggested in your letter, & now in relation to yourself, I know not what to do. I spoke to Leavitt when I came on about our going to the West Indies & the suggestion struck him favorably. Dr. Bugbee told me, that unless you were better, ^{he} ~~she~~ should advise to your going into some southern latitude for the winter. I think if I were to resolve to go at all events, the committee would not hesitate to send me. I wish you would write me your feelings in relation to the matter, that I may be deciding it. I should not hesitate a moment to leave the agency & do it, if I could meet the expense, but I see not how to do that. Our way in regard to any movement of the kind seems to be completely hedged up. Why it is so, I know not, but so it seems to be. Doubtless however God designs it for good, & if it tears us off from earth & makes us completely consecrate to him this service, good will come of it. Please write me by return of mail & direct to Utica. I shall make Utica the centre of operations, & perhaps if I find a good place for you at Whitestown, with bro. Green I may think it best for you to come on here. In that case I shall write you & instead of going farther west to begin my labors, shall go to Albany & begin there & work west, so as to meet & come on with you.

P.S. If nothing worse is to be had she had better get some one to help her, & if your health continues feeble. You must be able to have a wooden bath made. It is all important to keep your skin in good state.



Mrs Charlotte Phelps

Farmington

Conn—

Andover Aug. 11. 1835

Remember me affectionately to all friends, & as to my dear little boy, tell Papa will come as soon as he has done, & in the mean time send a direct buy him. I have left directions at N. York to have Wright forward \$200. to Wrentham & the remainder, some \$88—to you, to be laid out at your discretion, out of it to pay the freight of our furniture &c

Your affectionate husband

Amos A. Phelps